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INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

1. Guests of the Chinese Communist Party or central government of China, or persons visiting Tientsin and Peiping on business with government officials, are taken care of by the Reception Division*. They are received by the organization upon their arrival and have their appointments with government officials and agencies made through it.

2. The Reception Division is headed by SHEN Po-ch'un (沈伯純)**; his wife, KUO Hsi (郭希), works as his secretary. The Division's headquarters are at Central South Lake, inside the palace grounds, in Peiping; it moved there in December 1949 from the Peking Hotel, which it still uses as a hostel. Branch offices of the Division operate in all the main cities of North China, but none is known to exist in Shanghai or cities south of the Yangtse. The Peiping headquarters uses the following hostels:

Peking Hotel (北京飯店)	Telephone 32231/4
Ts'ui Ming Chuang (翠明莊)	Telephone 53434
Yung An (永安)	Telephone 35736/8
Kuang Ming (光明)	Telephone 34308
Chin Tai (金台)	Telephone 31390
Hsi Tan (西單)	Telephone 32665

Far Eastern Hotel, managed by MIAO Wen-shan (繆萬山); taken over by the government for billeting in October 1949.

3. The Tientsin office is in the old German Club, on Liberation Road (formerly Victoria Road), telephone 35708. It is headed by LIEN Yi-sung (連亦農), with an assistant SUN T'ien-yin (孫天胤), who has the title of section chief and is responsible for all administrative and executive details pertaining to the arrival of official guests. The branch office operates the Hong Kong Road Hostel (鎮南道招待所), telephone 34439; Liberation Road South Hostel (解放南路招待所), Hsin An Hostel (新安招待所), and Yu Yuan Hostel (煤園招待所). Guests are also billeted sometimes at the Astor Hotel, opposite the new municipal office and the Tenth Precinct Police Station.

4. Upon arrival in Tientsin, guests are divided into numbered groups, each of which is assigned a separate billet. A detailed registration form must be

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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filled out by each guest, stating name, address, profession, name of organization (business or government) represented, purpose of visit, persons desired to contact, and expected duration of stay. Guests are required to sign out when leaving the hotel and to sign in upon returning, giving times. Persons wishing to go on to Peiping have their travel arrangements made by the Division and are told what train to take.

5. In Peiping, guests are assigned quarters, fill out the same detailed registration form as in Tientsin, and must follow the same procedure of signing in and out of their billets. In order to see a Communist Party member or a government official, the visitor must prepare a letter addressed to the Communist Party, to be handed to the manager of the hostel for delivery through channels to the proper authority. If the party member or official wishes to see the visitor, he also makes the initial contact by letter. Appointments are sometimes delayed for several days or weeks, without any reason being given the visitor.

6. One of the hostels in Peiping, believed to be typical, was described as follows. Rooms are divided into classes, of which A is the best. Class C rooms are occupied by several persons; Class B are single rooms but otherwise little better than the lower category. Chair upholstery is torn, mattresses are dirty, and sheets and bed covers are spotted and stained. The hostel has flush toilets, but these have no seats and work only if water is carried to flush them. Boiled water for drinking is supplied. Laundry is done by the hotel free, but baths and haircuts are handled at neighboring establishments, and paid for in scrip issued by the hostel. A program of entertainment is arranged for the guests, including meetings, drama, and movies, and non-attendance is frowned upon. Special daily newspapers containing articles omitted from the usual dailies are circulated among the guests in rotation according to a list of names and room numbers attached to the sheet. Meals are served at seven a.m., noon, and six p.m., in a dining room with eight persons to a table. Meat, vegetables, and soup are served at all meals but in smaller quantities for breakfast. The food is of the type issued to Communist Party members of fifteen years' standing; the hostel manager and his wife had to obtain special permission from the chief of the Reception Division in order to share the food served to guests.

7. Foreign and Overseas Chinese visitors in Peiping are assigned to the Central South Lake inside the palace grounds for training. Upon arrival, they are instructed to report to Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

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* [redacted] Comment. The Reception Division was originally part of the Standing Committee of the Preparatory Committee for Convocation of the New PCC, in June 1949. It appears to have been retained by the central government as a permanent organization for handling visitors. [redacted] placed it under the Department of War Zone Unification, but, from the position of its chief (see below), it should probably be assigned to the Central People's Administrative Council. 25X1

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** [redacted] Comment. SHEN was head of the original Reception Division and became assistant head of the Secretariat of the Central People's Administrative Council under the new Communist government. He is so listed in the People's Yearbook for 1950.